

109770.0018  
Art Unit 3616  
Examiner Eric D. Culbreth

### REMARKS

Further and favorable consideration of the patentability of pending claims 1-30 of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The objection to the disclosure has been addressed by the amendment to page 6. The rejection of claim 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been addressed and overcome by the amendment to claim 11. Withdrawal of the objection and this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-12, 15-19, 21-23, 26-28 and 30 are rejected as anticipated by Fevre et al. Independent claims 11, 21 and 30 have been amended to more clearly define the configuration of the sleeve of the invention, which has a continuous cylindrical wall with cylindrical internal and external surfaces from which the internal and external ribs extend respectively. This configuration of a sleeve is not disclosed by Fevre. Figures 6 and 7 of Fevre are referenced for disclosure of the claimed sleeve with internal and external ribs which contact inner and outer tubes respectively. The sleeve 5 in Figures 6 and 7 of Fevre does not have a cylindrical wall with interior and exterior cylindrical surfaces, as defined by the claims as amended. Consequently, the sleeve 5 of Fevre does not have internal and external ribs which extend from a sleeve wall which has interior and exterior cylindrical surfaces which are spaced from and parallel with the inner and outer jackets or tubes. Because Fevre does not disclose each and every limitation of the claims as amended, as required under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, 20, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Fevre et al. in view of Burkhard et al. Figures 6 and 7 of Fevre are referenced for disclosure of the claimed sleeve with internal and external ribs which contact inner and outer tubes respectively. The sleeve 5 in Figures 6 and 7 of Fevre does not have a cylindrical wall with interior and exterior cylindrical surfaces, as defined by the claims as amended. Consequently, the sleeve 5 of Fevre does not have internal and external ribs which extend from a sleeve wall which has interior and exterior cylindrical surfaces which are spaced from and parallel with the inner and outer jackets or tubes. Further, as noted by the Examiner, Fevre does not disclose where the end of the inner jacket is located relative to the sleeve. Because the combined reference of Burkhard also does not disclose a sleeve of the claimed configuration, and the "bushing 56" of Burkhard functions in an entirely different manner, it would not have been

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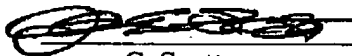
obvious to locate the sleeve 5 of Fevre at the end of the inner jacket. Each of the rejected claims as amended are now non-obvious from the combination of Fevre and Burkhard. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 14 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Fevre in view of Barton, and (for claim 4) further in view of Burkhard. Although Barton discloses the use of adhesive in connection with the "bush 3", the "bush" is not in the form of a cylindrical sleeve, as defined by the claims, and does not secure a cylindrical sleeve to a cylindrical jacket. As such, it would not have been obvious to combine the teaching of the use of an adhesive for a "bush" in a steering assembly as taught by Barton with the "sheath 5" of Fevre. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims as amended is respectfully requested. If there are any further fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0959, referencing our Docket No. 109770.0018.

Respectfully submitted,  
ROETZEL & ANDRESS

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